The revised Schedule-Y, which is soon to be published provides for-

(1) Specific responsibilities of

- Clinical Investigator
- Sponsors
- Ethics Committees

(2) Patient consent form has been made very elaborate to ensure transparency in enrolling the willing patients.

(3) It has been clearly specified that while conducting any clinical trial, norms of GCP guidelines published by Govenrment and Indian Council of Medical Research's "Ethical guidelines for biomedical research on human subject" are to be followed.

(4) No first time human trial for drug developed outside India, to be permitted, as was the case earlier.

UNICEF's World Children Report 2004

122. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recently released World's Children Report, 2004 of the UNICEF reveals that under-developed countries like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka look after their children far better than India in terms of health care and education;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in terms of infant mortality, India is going only a little better than sub-Saharan African countries; and

(c) if so, the reasons behind this and action taken by Government on the contents of the Report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) According to the UNICEF report, state of the World's children 2004 the infant mortality rate for India has declined from 146/1000 live births in 1960 to 67/1000 live births in 2002. The infants mortality rate in Bangladesh is 51/1000 live births and for Sri Lanka it is 17/1000 live births. The percentage of under fives suffering from under weight is 47 for India and 48 for Bangladesh and 29 for Sri Lanka. The percentage of infants with low birth rate is 30 for India and 30 for Bangladesh and 22 for Sri Lanka.

(b) According to the above mentioned Report, the infant mortality.for India is 67/1000 live births, for countries in Sub-Saharan Africa like Somalia 133/1000 live births, Sierra Leone 165/1000 live births, Niger 156/1000 live births, Ivory Cost 102/1000 live births. Thus India is better than Sub-Saharan African countries in terms of IMR.

(c) The Government of India has taken following steps to reduce Infants Mortality rate to <30/1000 live births by the year 2010:

(a)A National Technical Committee on child health has been constituted on 11th June, 2000 to look into various issues of neonatal care programme interventions in child health and advise.

(b) Formulated the National Population Policy, 2000.

(c) National Health Policy in 2002 provides a framework for provision of reproductive and child health services.

(d)RCH outreach scheme has been initiated in the EAG states.

(e)Multi year plan of action for provision of universal immunization services has been formulated.

(f) Interventions for control of pneumonia, diarrhoea, neonatal care and improvement of infant feeding practices are being implemented.

(g) The proposal for Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) is being considered by the Department of Family Welfare for neonate and referral cases.

Deaths of Children due to Poor Hygiene

123. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has achieved the dubious distinction of having the highest estimated number of children i.e., 5,19,500 dying from poor hygiene;

(b) whether it is a fact that seventy-two per cent people in India do not have access to improved sanitation; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve sanitation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (c)